

United States Congress

House of Representatives

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MA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ENDORSES DEMOCRATS' "NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE"

Democratic Plan Would Benefit Families and Industries Across Massachusetts

WASHINGTON, DC – All ten members of the Massachusetts delegation in the House of Representatives today endorsed the “New Partnership for America’s Future”, the Democratic plan for a strong, secure America. The New Partnership, which lays out a roadmap for creating jobs, reducing health care costs, supporting our veterans and achieving other key goals that benefit the middle class, includes six core values: prosperity, national security, fairness, opportunity, community, and accountability.

Rep. Edward Markey, one of the primary authors of the New Partnership, said “Today, Democrats present a clear, unified message to the American people. Democrats are committed to creating new jobs, ensuring that health care is affordable for all Americans, making high quality education accessible and accomplishing other important priorities that benefit middle class families. Each of the Partnership’s core values is good for America and good for families and industries across Massachusetts.”

Rep. John Olver said “A change in our national economic policy is particularly important to the 1st District of Massachusetts, the poorest and most rural region of the state. According to Census figures, 32 of the state’s poorest 50 communities are in the 1st District, and 22 create a solid block of them along Route 2 – a region known as the Northern Tier. This region faces unique economic challenges stemming from the loss of its historic manufacturing base, which once supported the vitality of communities with good-paying jobs.”

Rep. William Delahunt said “This is a clear and practical blueprint for restoring confidence in economic opportunity and national security in Massachusetts and across the country.”

Rep. Barney Frank said “It is important for us to draw a distinction between our support of responsible, progressive principles and the extreme conservatism of the Republicans. As the senior Democrat on the House committee with jurisdiction over housing, I am especially pleased with the support voiced here for increased funding of Section 8 and a new housing construction program, in contrast to the Republicans’ opposition to those two ideas.”

Rep. Marty Meehan said "Under President Bush and the Republican Congress, jobs have been lost, schools are underfunded, and health care costs are skyrocketing. In four years of Republican control of government, the squeeze on the middle class has only grown tighter. With John Kerry in the White House and a Democratic Congress, we will strengthen the middle class and lead America in a new and better direction."

Rep. John Tierney said "This plan illustrates how House Democrats want to stand-up for America's future. It is important that people know where the House Democrats place their priorities and know the stark contrasts that stand between our party and the party that currently holds the majority. By forging a New Partnership for America's Future, we will work to ensure that all Americans are returned to economic prosperity and have a safe country in which to raise their children."

Rep. Stephen Lynch said "This new Partnership gives the American people the chance to reaffirm the principles of hard work and equal opportunity that have characterized our nation for two centuries. After four years of this Administration neglecting the needs of the middle-income wage earners, the American people now have a clear choice between the destructive policies of the Republican Majority and the American values embodied in the Democratic Partnership Platform."

"This partnership represents the best values of our Party and our country," Rep. Jim McGovern said. "The issues represented here – good jobs, affordable health care, a strong and safe America – those are the issues that the people of Massachusetts care most about. Those are the issues that families in my district talk to me about all the time."

Rep. Michael Capuano said "Under the leadership of the Bush Administration and the Republican leadership in Congress, millions of Americans are jobless, more than 45 million families lack health insurance, and the number of children in poverty continues to rise. The New Partnership is a set of core values that will help Democrats bring economic opportunity to all Americans."

"Throughout our long and rich history, the Democratic Party has always stood for strength, inclusion and opportunity. The "New Partnership for America's Future" strongly reinforces that tradition. I firmly believe that this plan can make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans," said Congressman Richard E. Neal.

Democrats' New Partnership for America's Future is composed of the following six core values:

Prosperity: Providing all Americans with the opportunity to succeed and the resources to live a secure and comfortable life, including good jobs here at home, affordable health care, a growing economy with stable prices, investment in new technologies, and fiscal responsibility in government.

Americans prosper and thrive when they can support their families with good jobs, provide their children with access to quality health care, and count on their government to spend tax dollars wisely. The Democrats' New Partnership would scrap the Bush Administration's failed jobs policies, which have resulted in almost 2 million jobs lost, the worst record since Herbert

Hoover. In Massachusetts, more than 193,200 jobs have been eliminated since George Bush took office, a trend we must reverse. The New Partnership would make unprecedented investments in the research and development of advanced technologies, which would help create good jobs for Massachusetts residents and benefit the world-class technology companies that fuel the Commonwealth's innovation economy. Democrats also know that reliable health care coverage is essential for our country to prosper, and the New Partnership calls for health coverage for every child, a badly needed reform that would provide health care for the almost 90,000 children in Massachusetts who remain uninsured. Finally, Americans must have faith that their government is disciplined with their hard-earned tax dollars. The New Partnership calls for a return to the fiscal policies that produced record budget surpluses during the Clinton Administration.

National Security: Guaranteeing military strength second to none, strong diplomatic alliances to protect America's national interests, and timely and reliable intelligence to keep us safe at home by preventing terrorist attacks before they occur.

The Democrats' New Partnership would support Massachusetts military installations, such as the Army's Soldier Systems Command and Hanscom Air Force Base, which provide the science behind our soldiers in the field. The cutting-edge research and development that is conducted at our military installations continues to strengthen national defense and help power the local economy. Over 1,602 brave men and women from Massachusetts are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. These two wars are creating a new generation of veterans, and Democrats understand the importance of keeping faith with our veterans, 524,000 of whom live in Massachusetts. Three years after the 9/11 attacks, our aviation system remains vulnerable to terrorism, and the New Partnership calls for the inspection of all cargo loaded on passenger planes, a dangerous security loophole that Democrats have been working to close despite stiff opposition from the Bush Administration and the airline industry. Our New Partnership recognizes the importance of strong diplomatic ties with key allies such as Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East.

Fairness: Ensuring equal opportunity for all, including affordable health care for everyone, spending Social Security funds only on Social Security and eliminating tax loopholes so everyone pays their fair share.

Democrats are committed to making health care affordable for every American. Approximately 600,000 people in Massachusetts are uninsured - a number that has doubled within the last two years under the Bush Administration, and the cost of health insurance in Massachusetts has increased by \$970 - a 64% increase. This is unacceptable, and the New Partnership calls for urgent action to make health care coverage available to all citizens, regardless of whether they work for a small business, have lost their job or are working part-time. The New Partnership makes a pact with the American people that more tax relief will be targeted to the middle class. Consistent with this commitment, a Democratic economic stimulus proposal introduced last year would have provided \$300 for every working family in Massachusetts and across the country, compared to only \$100 per family under President Bush's tax policy skewed towards the rich.

Opportunity. Providing Americans access to the tools to succeed as they choose: a vibrant public education system, accountable to the highest standards for every school and a chance for all children to reach their potential, including an affordable and accessible college education.

The Bush Administration's failure to provide sufficient funding for Title I has denied more than 36,000 Massachusetts students key education services such as extra help in reading and math, and 23,630 have gone without after-school programs that boost academic achievement and keep kids safe. The Democrats' New Partnership makes educational funding a top priority, so that all children can sharpen the academic skills they need to succeed. This week, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released a state-by-state report card on higher education, and Massachusetts received an "F" for affordability. The New Partnership aims to make a quality education attainable for everyone by increasing student aid such as Pell Grants, which the Bush Administration has capped at \$4,050 for the last three years, affecting more than 68,000 students in Massachusetts. Republicans have shortchanged public schools in Massachusetts by providing \$161 million less in No Child Left Behind funding than was promised. The New Partnership would ensure that our schools get the resources they need.

Community. Working together for a safe environment free of crime and drugs, supporting local businesses and community groups to keep our families safe and our neighborhoods strong, and enforcing our anti-pollution laws to keep our air and water clean and healthy, where polluters pay for the damage they cause.

The New Partnership reaffirms Democrats' commitment to clean up Superfund sites, which are located in 34 communities around Massachusetts. Dirty Midwest coal plants have made the air in every Massachusetts county unhealthy to breathe and every waterway in our state subject to mercury warnings, according to EPA standards. Massachusetts' innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy industries will grow under the New Partnership's clean energy priorities, bringing new jobs and reducing pollution in our state. The Democrats' New Partnership would support safe neighborhoods around the state so that every child has a safe place to learn and play. Republicans have tried to cut back on support for local police officers, supporting proposals that would slash funding for the COPS program, which has put 2,984 cops on the street in Massachusetts. The high cost of housing in Massachusetts makes it the least affordable of all fifty states – with a family having to make more than three times the minimum wage just to afford the average apartment rent. The New Partnership would expand resources to produce desperately needed affordable rental housing units in Massachusetts, and would kill the Bush Administration's proposal to take rental housing vouchers away from 8,617 lower income Massachusetts' families and seniors.

Accountability. Holding those in power responsible for their actions; acting responsibly for our children by restoring fiscal responsibility and eliminating deficit spending; requiring real consequences for CEOs and corporations who break the law at the expense of those who play by the rules.

While the Bush Administration digs a budget deficit \$5 trillion deep, Democrats are committed to restoring fiscal discipline. All families in Massachusetts have seen their share of the national debt increase by \$39,016 and face a debt tax of \$10,000 over the next six years. The New Partnership is committed to preserving Social Security and Medicare, which have been jeopardized by three lavish Bush tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Americans. About 50 percent of American households own mutual funds, either in their own portfolios or their retirement accounts, and the Democrats' New Partnership is committed to protecting Americans' hard-earned savings by holding executives accountable.

